



Senator Catherine A. Osten
Representative Toni E. Walker
Committee Members
Appropriations Committee
Legislative Office Building
Room 2700
Hartford, CT 06106

February 15, 2022

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and Committee Members:

Students need to see more teachers who look like them in Connecticut schools. Connecticut is working hard to decrease the gap between the percentage of minority students and the percentage of certified minority teachers, and residency programs are helping do just that.

On behalf of Cooperative Educational Services and the RESC Alliance, I am requesting your support for increased minority representation in our classrooms, a pathway for participants to raise their standard of living, and building the capacity of our current workforce by designating \$5.5 million as a line item in the Connecticut State Department of Education section of the state budget to support the effort of any Connecticut district partnering with a residency program that is specifically committed to training teacher of color.

One proven, successful program that supports this effort is the Connecticut Teacher Residency Program (CT-TRP), which is a RESC Alliance developed and supported alternative route to certification program that provides residents with a salary and benefits while they attend courses. Residents work side-by-side with a mentor teacher for the school year and are guaranteed a full-time teaching position upon completion of the program and certification requirements. In its first three years, CT-TRP has already included 69 residents of color. With your support, this this program has the potential to add more than 120 teachers of color to Connecticut's workforce in the next two years.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CDumais'.

Dr. Charles Dumais
Executive Director, Cooperative Educational Services